

From: Brian Greene <brian.greene@tnc.org>
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Subject: Welcome Back to APIPP's Lake Protectors

Hello APIPP Lake Protectors, Partners, and Friends,

While the calendar says it's not quite summer yet, the warm weather and people out swimming sure feels like it! The [Adirondack Invasive Plant Program](#) (APIPP) is looking forward to another great season of partnering with the public, organizations, and local communities to protect Adirondack waters from invasive species. We need everyone to help our lakes and streams by taking some easy steps to prevent and monitor for aquatic invasive species (AIS). Don't [miss our upcoming trainings](#), which are happening virtually and in-person in June, July, and August. Please [join us to protect our waterbodies](#) while exploring our amazing aquatic habitats.

Why Monitor Lakes for Invasive Species?

Invasive species pose a significant threat to our lakes and waterways. They can disrupt ecosystems, harm native plants and animals, and impact recreational activities. By participating in lake monitoring, you can directly contribute to safeguarding our aquatic resources.

How Can You Get Involved?

- [Volunteer](#): Join APIPP Lake Protectors, our team of dedicated lake lovers who monitor waterbodies for signs of invasive species. Whether you're an experienced naturalist or a curious beginner, your contribution matters.
- [Clean, Drain, Dry](#): Make sure to clean all equipment before it goes into a lake or stream. Visit a boat wash station for the best free way to decontaminate equipment and prevent AIS spread. Share your knowledge with friends, family, and neighbors to raise awareness.
- [Report Sightings](#): If you spot any suspicious plants or animals during your outdoor adventures, report them using iMapInvasives. Early detection is crucial for effective management.

Monitoring

With thousands of waterbodies across the Adirondacks, APIPP needs your help in monitoring for AIS. Since 2002, APIPP has coordinated volunteers and partners to monitor lakes and streams for AIS. Last summer, for the second year in a row, we broke the previous year's

record with 184 surveys across the region. We hope you will help us keep the momentum going by joining the program again and monitoring a waterbody of your choice.

The Lake Protectors program is a fun and easy way for all of us to give back to the lakes we love. We ask that all Lake Protectors attend a training and commit to monitoring at least one lake between July and September. APIPP provides the training and technical support, and our volunteers provide the eyes on the water. Below are several updates about the program and upcoming dates. If you have any questions, you can check out www.adkinvasives.com or reach out to me directly.

Sign up to Adopt a Lake

Each year we ask APIPP Lake Protectors to adopt a lake and monitor it at least once for invasive species. This can be the lake that you live on, your favorite place to boat, or a backcountry pond that you have to hike to. To sign up for a lake, simply visit [this webpage](#), navigate to the lake that you want to survey, and then click on it to display the “Adopt this Lake” link, where you will enter some basic information. If you have any difficulties using the website, please let me know. A couple of notes:

- The web map displays best on a computer. Opening it on a mobile device will adjust to your screen size, so you might have to click around to get to the correct place.
 - If you do not see your lake on the map let me know. Some small waterbodies have been removed for display efficiency.
 - More than one person or group can sign up for a lake. The more eyes we have on a waterbody, the better!
 - The web map also serves as the waiver for the program, so please complete the form and sign it at the end.

Trainings

APIPP will offer three official trainings, and we urge everyone to attend one to learn how to identify and report invasive plants and animals. Even if you have attended a training before, they are a good refresher. All trainings are free and open for anyone to join. We encourage you to register ahead of time.

- [June 25](#) Virtual Training from 9:00-11:00am. Join us live or watch the recording later.
- [July 13](#) at Pecks Lake Marina with [Pecks Lake Protective Association](#)
- [August 16](#) at Adirondack Interpretive Center with [SUNY ESF](#)

Species List

APIPP trains our staff, partners, and volunteers on how to identify and search for 16 AIS. Not all of these species are in our region yet, but we are keeping an eye out because early detection of invasive species is important. [Visit our website to see photos and learn more about any of the species listed below.](#)



Reporting

You have the option to report your survey results either online or using a paper form. Below are the links to our forms that we use.

- Online
 - [Aquatic survey online form](#) (fill out for every survey)
 - [AIS observation via iMapInvasives](#) (only fill out if you observe AIS)
- Paper
 - [Aquatic survey datasheet](#) (fill out for every survey)
 - A paper map showing where you surveyed and what was observed.
 - [AIS observation datasheet](#) (only fill out if you observe AIS)

Again, thanks for your interest in protecting lakes and looking out for aquatic invasive species. If you have any questions or need any help, please reach out to me.

Enjoy summer,
Brian

P.S. – [On June 26, I'm leading a webinar about Lake Management Tracker and the data we have learned from the past 6 years of assessing management of milfoil.](#)

Brian T. Greene
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
Brian.greene@tnc.org
+1-518-576-2082 ext. 119
nature.org
adkinvasives.com

The Nature Conservancy
APIPP
PO Box 65 | 8 Nature Way
Keene Valley, NY 12943